

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action of August 23, 2006.

Reexamination, reconsideration, and allowance of the application and all presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this First Response, claims 1-22 remain pending in this application, and claims 1-11 are allowed. Claims 2, 8, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 20 are directly amended herein. It is believed that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the present application.

Initialed Form PTO-1449

On January 29, 2004, Applicants submitted an Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449 listing several references to be considered by the Examiner. A copy of the Form PTO-1449 was mailed from the Patent Office along with the outstanding Office Action. Several of the references listed on the Form PTO-1449 are initialed by the Examiner. However, it appears that one of the listed references, U.S. 6,169,686, has not been initialed by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing reference be considered by the Examiner and that an updated Form PTO-1449 be mailed with the next Office Action.

Response to §112 Rejections

Claims 12-22 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 12, 13, 15, 16, and 20 have been amended herein thereby mooting the rejections of claims 12-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejections of claims 12-22 be withdrawn.

Response to §101 Rejections

Claims 16-19 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. However, claim 16 has been amended herein to recite a "computer-readable medium having a program capable of being executed by an instruction execution system." Applicants submit that such a medium constitutes statutory subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection of claims 16-19 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and that this application and all presently pending claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding Applicants' response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,

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